

WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

(Letters addressed to Professor Massey must have stamp enclosed for answer.)

Thursday, March 12, 1914.



W. F. Massey.

Canning Tomatoes.
Fluvanna County: "With others, I am starting a canning here, trying to find a substitute for tobacco, which is ruining our farmers, and from whom you have written about this matter, we must start right with the plants I wish to experiment myself, which may be of help to the community as well as myself. The canning industry is growing in Fluvanna, from one cannery in 1912 there will be eight this year. The goods have already established a reputation in Richmond, and a man representing a fancy grocery store predicts that in ten years the tomato packing will supersede tobacco production. The variety of tomato selected for planting in the Greater Baltimore. Is it advisable to plant early, medium or late tomato to extend the packing season? If so, what varieties would you advise. If the Baltimore tomato is better with you than here you will be disappointed. They lack color and are full of hard cores and not good bearers." No, you do not need the early varieties of tomatoes, as there are none here, especially early that are of good quality for canning. Here, where the canning industry is very large (there are fifty-three canneries in my county alone), the Stone tomato is universally planted.

In the experiments made at the Delaware experiment station they found that the Greater Baltimore stood about the head of the list as a productive canning tomato. You would do well to write to the director of the Delaware station, Newark, Del., and get their bulletin on tomatoes for canning. It will give you valuable information. Our farmers are too careless in the production of the plants, simply sowing in the open ground, and transplanting to the field directly from the seed rows. You can get better plants by starting earlier, say in March, and sowing under glass, and then transplanting the plants four inches apart in another frame protected with twilled cotton cover. This will give stouter plants, and they will come up with mass of soil and live better. A fertilizer running about 2-3-10 is excellent for tomatoes at rate of 500 pounds an acre in the hills. Then spray with Bordeaux mixture, to prevent the leaf blight. Quality in the fruit is of more importance than earliness.

Preparing for Alfalfa.
Henrico County: "I would like to get an acre of alfalfa on my farm. The soil of the intended place is a light loam in pretty good condition. In fall of 1912 I sowed crimson clover on top-dressed it with stable manure and cut the clover for hay, and turned under the stubble as deep as possible. How much I should use in preparing this soil, and what can I saw now to get a crop this summer from it? My idea is to sow oats for feed, and follow with peas, and in the fall sow crimson clover with a heavy application of acid phosphate and mix four pounds of alfalfa with the clover, and the next spring turn it under deeply and sow to peas again, and turn the under and plant the peas in good order and sow the alfalfa. Please advise me what your opinion is of this plan? You have been taking off hay crops and propose to do so again, and this is not rapidly increasing the humus in the soil. You can sow the oats and cut them early for hay, and will then have time to grow the pea hay, but you should use acid phosphate liberally on the oats and peas and some potash with it for the peas. Then, if instead of making hay of these peas, you turn them all under and harrow in a ton of slaked burnt lime an acre and acid phosphate, you can sow the alfalfa at once the last of August. Or, if you make hay of these peas you can follow up your plan and defer the liming till you have turned under the peas. Turning the clover and then the peas that summer will certainly give you humus-making material, and you should get a good stand. But use the lime just ahead of the sowing of the alfalfa.

Starting a Dairy Farm.
I am following your valuable articles in The Times-Dispatch with great interest, and want your advice about a crop rotation, etc. The Virginia fever struck me two years ago, and we sold out in Wisconsin and moved to a ninety-eight-acre farm here near Richmond in last November.

"We have seventy acres under plow, which have been used for potatoes and corn, with much commercial fertilizer, and a little crimson clover. We want to develop a dairy farm, with as much alfalfa and silo stuff as possible, and want a rotation to grow the stuff. I was raised on a farm, but have long devoted my entire time to the practice of medicine, and will again as soon as my son gets established on the farm. Hope to build a silo this summer in time for the corn. We are here now, and believe in doing this well. But we need land that not to do more, for we are new and in a new field. Any suggestions as to a rotation and the best money crop to meet interest will be greatly appreciated. The diagrams sent show a great complication of fields. If you design the farm for dairy purposes, the rotation should be one that will give you the most forage for the cows, and there is no part of the country in which as great a variety of good forage can be grown as in the South. But on so small a farm, pasturing cows will not be profitable, though a grass lot for exercise will be all right. It will be better to feed green stuff in the stables winter and summer with silage, of course, in winter.

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EDWIN EARLE,
Canaan Farm, Esmont, Va.

Then adopt a short and simple rotation designed for the greatest production of feed. Say corn, with peas sown among it at last working. Corn cut in the fall and peas mown for hay. Peas stubble disked fine and sown to winter surf oats in September. Oats cut for hay in dough stage, and land prepared and sown to Whippoorwill peas. Both oats and peas having 300 pounds an acre of super phosphate and twenty pounds of muriate of potash. Peas cut for hay when pods turn yellow, and land sown to winter oats again with fifteen pounds of crimson clover. Oats turned under for corn. With all the farm manure applied, and the rotation repeated. The peas and clover can, of course, be used either as hay or cut green for feeding in stable. This will be a three-year rotation for the larger part of the farm, and money crops, at once plant a series of truck crops heavily fertilized, of such things as sell best—early and late Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes and melons. If you send 50 cents to the Farmer, Eighteenth and Market Streets, Philadelphia, Pa., and get a copy of my book, "Crop Growing and Crop Feeding," it will give you more help than I could write in a dozen pages, both in the field and the truck patch. I have no interest in the sale of this book, as I sold it outright to the Farmer Co.

Trouble With Canteleupes.
"Please tell me what was the matter with my canteleupes. After the vines began to run I lost about one-fourth of them by suddenly withering. I would not think it the canteleupes, as the patch was in a piece of ground which has never had melons on it before. I keep the striped bugs from doing much harm by spraying with Bordeaux mixture and lead arsenate. But I have been told by a gardener that they lay eggs and the larvae eat the roots of the plants and cause them to wither. Is this true? You have doubtless named the cause. The striped cucumber beetles Diabrotica not only feed on the young leaves as the plants come up in the spring, but they lay their eggs about the root of the plants and these hatch out small white worms that are the larval form of the beetles, and these eat the roots and cause the sudden withering of the plants. The best thing is not to spray the hills, but to use some dust-like material that will discourage their lay eggs. Tobacco dust, fine bone flour or even air-slaked lime, sowed with a drop or two of carbolic acid and dusted over the hills, will kill the young plants emerge from the soil, will keep the beetles off, and can easily be repeated if washed off. The thing is to keep the beetles away rather than poison them, for if any escape the poison they go at once to laying eggs.

Trouble With Peas.
Augusta County: "Last season I had two acres in early peas, and I never saw a finer growth till they came into bloom, and then the green lice, or Aphids, swarmed over them and literally destroyed the whole. Never got a gallon of peas from the whole two acres. What is the remedy or prevention? When preparing to sow peas get some tobacco stems and put them plentifully in the furrows. They will in their decay make a good fertilizer, too, but they will prevent the aphides from doing any harm. If you do appear dust the plants over at once with tobacco dust from the smoking tobacco factories. This was successful in routing them in North Carolina.

Cucumbers.
Gloucester County: "Will you please tell me through The Times-Dispatch how to fertilize and cultivate cucumbers and name the analysis of a good fertilizer for this ready-made? Please also tell me how to bring them for market. I have an old garden now in crimson clover. Will this be a good place for them after the clover comes off?"

Where I live there are thousands of acres planted to cucumbers and cantaloupes, both cultivated in the same way. The general practice is to plow the land in January and run out deep furrows six feet apart, and fill these with a half ton of stable manure. This is little till planting time, in April, and then about 800 pounds an acre of a fertilizer running 7 per cent ammonia, 5 per cent phosphoric acid and 5 per cent potash is applied in the furrows and the whole bedded on. The beds are slightly flattened and the seed drilled in a continuous row. When a stand is secure, the plants are thinned to two in hand, twenty inches apart, and a small amount of nitrate of soda scattered around each hill. The rows are cultivated rapidly till the vines cover the ground, and when the crop is being gathered crimson clover seed are sown over it to make a winter cover to turn under for green manure the next season. The crop is all shipped to market in covered baskets or generally sold to buyers at the stations. They can be salted down, however, in a brine strong enough to pop a fresh egg and weighted down to keep them from floating. Your clover will be too late to make an early crop of the cukes after cutting it. If turned under early it will largely take the place of the stable manure, and the man who grows the improved Marlana is H. P. Langdon, Clinton, N. Y.

Growing Ensilage Corn.
I am located in the Tidewater section, and have a good annual rainfall. Our farmers usually plant on a high ridge, adding to this and laying by with a heavy ridge. In spite of heavy rains in summer, it appears to me that it would be wiser to plant and cultivate on a slight ridge. What would you advise? The soil is a gray sandy loam almost black. It has not here, but has been plowed more than five inches. I am using a large and heavy mules and breaking it about nine inches, breaking up the clay. Do you think this too deep? The land made nearly a bale of cotton last year, and would have done more, but for the damage done by the great storm last summer. I want to plant corn for ensilage. Please state the best distance, etc. Land that has only been plowed five inches may be temporarily injured by plowing four inches more at once and turning up raw clay. Better have only taken an inch annually till about eight inches, which is deep enough for all practical purposes. Formerly we sowed corn very thickly in rows for ensilage, but we have found that it is far better to give it room enough to make ears and increase the feeding value of the silage. Plant on a slight ridge in your best land to assist drainage, but cultivate shallow and never put a turning plow in the field after the planting. You might lay by with a broad cotton sweep run shallow to clean out the middles, but not to tear the roots. Plant in four foot rows and leave the corn twelve inches in the rows, and cut when in the roasting ear stage.

JOINED IN DEMAND FOR CALL OF ROLL

National Voters' League Makes Public Names of Forty-Seven Representatives.

SPEAKER COUNTED ONLY 23

Charges of "Counting Out Votes" Supplemented by Pennsylvania Progressive.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Washington, March 11.—The charges of "counting out votes" and "inside government in the House," brought against Speaker Champ Clark and his majority colleagues by Professor Charles Zueblin, formerly of Chicago University, now of Boston, was supplemented in the House today by Representative Clyde Kelly, Progressive of Pennsylvania.

After stating he agreed with Speaker Clark's count of twenty-three members, who rose in the House on December 3, in favor of a roll call on the question of referring the Mullaly bill, and the McDonald resolution to unsent Representative McDermott to the Judiciary Committee, Representative Kelly read a letter from the National Voters' League, giving a list of forty-seven representatives, who had written the league that they stood up on the demand for a roll call.

Kelly declared that it constituted a vital question affecting the integrity of the House. He stated that the list was sent to him by Lynn Hayes, secretary of the Voters' League.

Clark, last Saturday called the Zueblin allegations to the attention of the House and bitterly denounced the professor. He characterized the charge of counting out votes as a falsehood, and asserted that the professor's reference to "inside government" was an insult to the entire House. The Speaker was warmly applauded by all the members and several took the floor to express their entire confidence in him.

Representative Kelly, in presenting his list, said: "Here we have the peculiar situation which would exist in one of two things—either that you cannot procure a roll call here when it is desired by the requisite number, or that you cannot depend upon members to take the same ground in public when the spotlight is turned on, as they did when the votes were counted in the House. "As one of those who stood up, I believe that Speaker Clark counted correctly when he announced only twenty-three standing, but here are the names of forty-seven who say they were on their feet. How about it? I merely present this to the House and put this matter down in the record, so that members in the country may know the situation."

Kelly said that the newspaper accounts of the discrepancies involved the integrity of the House, and that they ask the question "Are there liars in the House of Representatives?" No comment was made when Kelly concluded.

Joined in Demand.
"The forty-seven who replied definitely that they joined in a demand for a roll call," said Hayes's letter to Kelly, were as follows: Ashbrook, of Ohio; Barton, of Nebraska; Bathrick, of Ohio; Bell, of California; Bowdler, of Ohio; Burke, of Wisconsin; Campbell, of Kansas; Copley, of Illinois; Cramton, of Michigan; Dillon, of South Dakota; Donovan, of Connecticut; Esch, of Wisconsin; Farr, of Pennsylvania; Fowler, of Illinois; Gorman, of Illinois; Hamilton, of Missouri; Ingham, of Illinois; Hulme, of Pennsylvania; Johnson, of Washington; Keating, of Colorado; Kelly, of Pennsylvania; Knapp, of Wisconsin; LaFollette, of Washington; Lewis, of Pennsylvania; Macdonald, of Michigan; Mahan, of Minnesota; Montague, of Virginia; Murdoch, of Kansas; Murray, of Massachusetts; Neely, of Kansas; Nolan, of California; Norton, of North Dakota; O'Leary, of New York; Quinn, of Mississippi; Raker, of California; Ripley, of Pennsylvania; Shackford, of Missouri; Stevens, of New Hampshire; Stout, of Montana; Southard, of West Virginia; Temple, of Pennsylvania; Thompson, of Illinois; Thompson, of Oklahoma; Walters, of Pennsylvania; Wingo, of Arkansas; and Woodruff, of Michigan.

"Representative Holger, of North Dakota, telephoned that he stood up to ask for the roll call." Hayes' letter declared also that eight members replied to the league's inquiry "in such a way as to imply that they also demanded the roll call. These were Crosser, of Ohio; Egan, of New Jersey; Green, of Iowa; Pendleton, of Michigan; McCoy, of New Jersey; Sinner, of Oregon; and New York, and Small, of North Carolina."

Sentenced to Penitentiary.
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Bristol, Va., March 11.—Leo Shepherd, who operated what he termed a clubhouse in a suburb, was today given four years in the Virginia penitentiary for having brutally assaulted David M. Gregg, a Bristol merchant. His only complaint against Gregg was that the latter appeared as a witness against him in a criminal prosecution.

Escaped From Rockbridge Jail.
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Lynchburg, Va., March 11.—William Jackson, who was shot three times when he landed into a home here late on Sunday night, was a Bristol merchant. His only complaint against Gregg was that the latter appeared as a witness against him in a criminal prosecution.

Fast Progress Impossible Because of Danger That Roof Will Collapse.
St. Louis, Mo., March 11.—Work of searching the ruins of the Missouri Athletic Club for the bodies of the twenty victims of Monday's fire, believed to be in the debris, made slow progress to-day. No bodies were recovered, and the number at the morgue when he landed into a home here late on Sunday night, was a Bristol merchant. His only complaint against Gregg was that the latter appeared as a witness against him in a criminal prosecution.

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of whose members still survive. The flag was made for them by a Bedford County woman, and is said to have been very handsome. G. H. M.

Prisoners Escape From Amherst Jail.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Amherst, Va., March 11.—Some time last night George Williams and Walter Johnson, both colored, who were confined in the Amherst jail awaiting trial, made their escape. Sheriff Drummond immediately took steps to capture them, and Williams was caught this evening at Monroe. Johnson still is at large, but the officers are on his trail. It is not known positively how the prisoners made their escape.

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